

33 weight thrust bearing including cooperating tapered surfaces on said axle means and the other of said upper bush and said lower bush.--

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding grounds of rejection is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the remarks which follow.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to clearly show the transfer aperture 39.

Applicant proposes to amend each of the drawing figures to more clearly show the aperture. The proposed changes are shown in red on the attached copy of the drawing figures. Approval of the proposed changes is requested. Applicant will defer formal correction to the drawings pending receipt of an Official Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure for failing to conform with accepted U.S. patent practice. By this amendment, applicant has amended the specification as required.

Applicant also submits herewith an abstract on a separate sheet as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b).

Applicant has also amended the specification to provide the proper introduction to the claims as required by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner contends that the word "said" should be inserted before "axle means" in line 6 of claim 4 to provide antecedent basis. Applicant has so amended claim 4.

The Examiner correctly notes that "the upper bush" as appearing in line 1 of claim 5 lacks antecedent basis. The Examiner also regards as unclear which diameter is being referred to in line 2 of claim 5, the inner diameter of the bush 32 which abuts the upper end 16₁ of the axle, or the outer diameter of the bush 32 which abuts the hollow member 30. The Examiner regards the phrase "upper and lower bushes" in line 2 of claim 6 as indefinite since it is not clear whether these upper and lower bushes have any relationship to the bush at each end of the axle means as recited in claim 4.

By this amendment, applicant has clarified all the instances of indefiniteness raised by the Examiner in claims 5 and 6. For example, independent claim 4 now specifies an upper bush and a lower bush at respective upper and lower ends of the axle means, thereby providing precise antecedent basis for "the upper bush" recited in claim 5. In addition, applicant has specified that the upper bush has a lesser inner diameter than the upper end of the lower bush, thereby clarifying the claim language.

Applicant has also amended page 8 of the specification to state in clear terms what is implicit in the reference to the upper part of the spindle 16₁ having a lesser diameter than the lower part 16₂. In other words, it is apparent that by providing differential diameters, the ends of the respective bushes also present differential face areas to the lubricant under pressure. The Examiner will note that newly submitted claim 7 contains similar language and, based on the specification and drawings as originally filed, it is also readily apparent that no new matter has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that all of claims 4-7 are now in condition for immediate allowance, and early passage to issue is requested. In the event, however, any small matters

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remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned so that the prosecution of this application can be expeditiously concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

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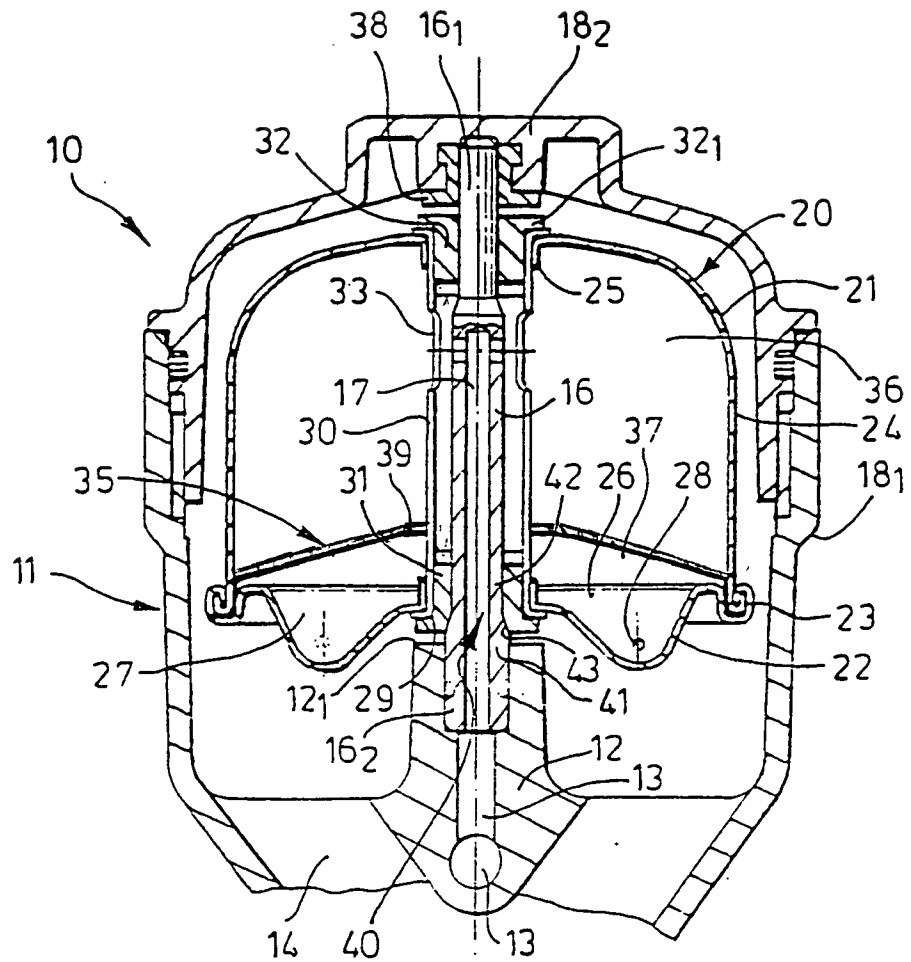
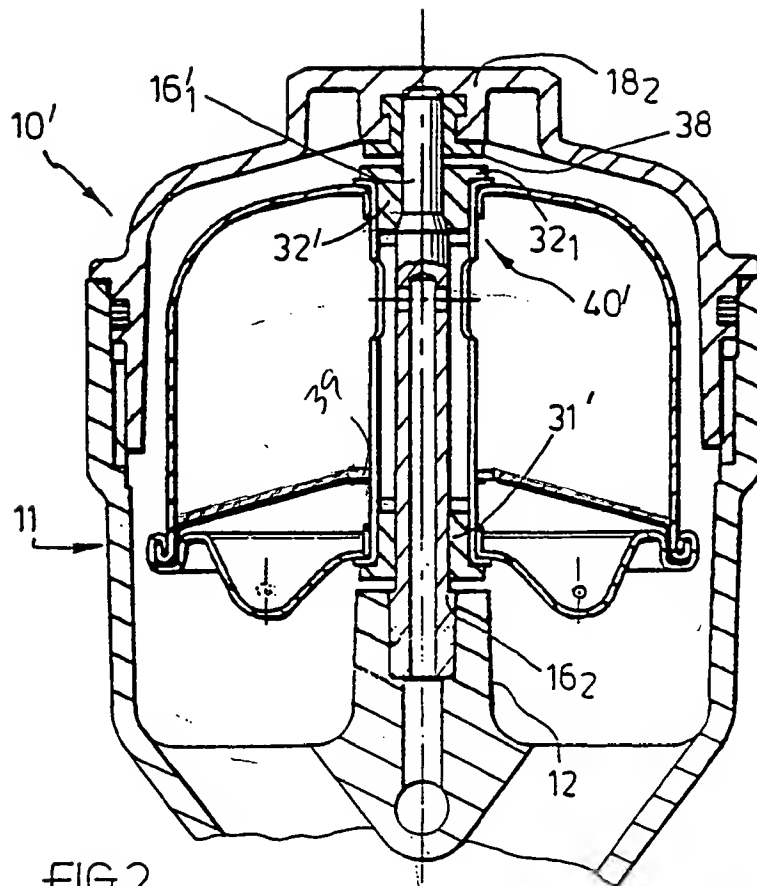
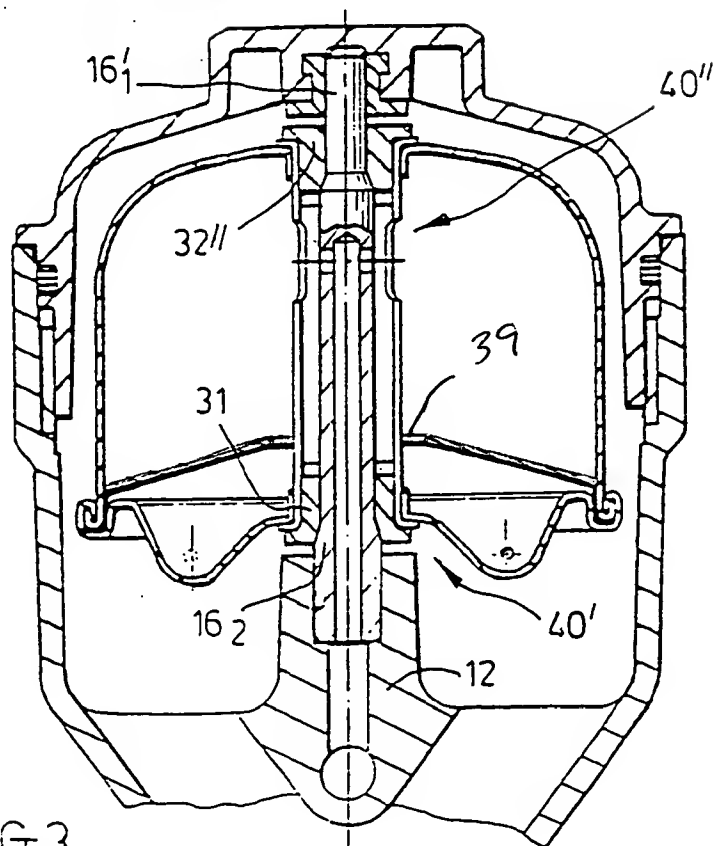


FIG. 1

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FIG. 2FIG. 3